

DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS
ADMINISTRATOR'S MEMO SERIES

NOTICE 03-24

ISSUE DATE: 11/05/2003
DISPOSAL DATE: 12/31/2003

RE: FFY 2004 - FFY 2005 TANF
STATE PLAN

To: W-2 Agencies
DWS Area Administrators/Assistant Area Administrators
Child Care Coordinators
Child Support Agencies
County Department of Human Services Directors
County Department of Social Services Directors
Tribal Economic Support Directors
Great Lakes Intertribal Council

From: Bettie A. Rodgers /s/
Division Administrator

Background

In order to continue to qualify to receive funding under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant, Wisconsin must submit a TANF state plan for FFY2004 – FFY2005 to the Administration for Children and Families no later than December 31, 2003. A DRAFT version of the plan has been completed and is available for review.

The draft 2004-2005 state plan embodies the state TANF program as framed by the federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA), by subsequent federal TANF regulations, and by cumulative Wisconsin state legislation pertaining to Wisconsin Works (W-2) and related programs. The draft plan also reflects programmatic changes resulting from 2003 Wisconsin Act 33, the biennial budget act enacted on July 24, 2003.

The plan provides a general overview of the W-2 program and Wisconsin's other TANF programs. However, local agencies must continue to use the W-2 Manual and other official DWD/DWS informational releases for all program guidance.

Content of the Plan

Under the PRWORA, states must have a plan that outlines how they intend to conduct a TANF program that provides assistance to needy families and provides parents with job preparation, work and support services to enable them to leave the program and become self-sufficient. With the exception of Safety Services and Child Welfare Prevention Services, Wisconsin will provide TANF-funded services to needy families at or under 250 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) with the level of services outlined in the plan, varying according to income and assets. For those two programs that fall under the fourth purpose of the TANF program (i.e., encouraging the formation and maintenance of two-parent families), there are no income limits in place.

As required, the plan includes the assurances under section 402(a)(2)-(7) of the PRWORA related to conducting a program that, among other things: 1) provides parents with job preparation, work and support services to enable them to leave the program and become self-sufficient; 2) establishes goals and takes action to prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies, with special emphasis on teenage pregnancies; and 3) provides education and training on the problem of statutory rape so that teenage pregnancy prevention programs may be expanded in scope to include men. We consulted with the Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS) in developing the portions of the assurances related to prevention and reduction of out-of-wedlock pregnancies and education and training related to statutory rape.

As in the current plan, we have grouped the program descriptions by whether they are federal TANF programs, segregated state TANF programs or separate state programs. We have also revised the Maintenance of Effort chart to reflect the program breakdown that will be in effect for FFY 2004 – FFY 2005.

Plan Availability

The DRAFT TANF plan is available:

- On the DWD Website at www.dwd.state.wi.us/dws/tanf/tanfstateplans.htm; or
- By requesting a copy from Elisabeth Fuchs at (608) 266-5370 or, for TDD Telecommunication Service for the Deaf at (608) 267-0927.

Public Hearings

A public hearing will be held on November 20, 2003, from 4:00 to 6:00 PM at the Department of Workforce Development, in the first floor cafeteria at 201 East Washington Avenue, in Madison.

At the hearing, reasonable accommodations, including the provision of informational material in an alternative format, will be provided for qualified individuals with disabilities or who are non-English-speaking. Requests for accommodations or interpreters should be made no later than November 13, 2003 by contacting one of the telephone number above.

Comment Period

Written comments on the plan may be submitted to Fred Bartol, Bureau of Workforce Programs, Division of Workforce Solutions, Room E100, 201 E. Washington Ave., Madison, WI, 53707-7935, or by e-mail at *fred.bartol@dwd.state.wi.us*. Written comments will receive the same consideration as testimony at the public hearing, but should be submitted no later than December 12, 2003.

REGIONAL OFFICE CONTACT: Area Administrators